Hike in prices of petroleum products

1423. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have hiked the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG recently; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Recent increase in Retail Selling Price at Delhi in Rs./lit/cyl.

Date	MS	HSD	LPG	SKO
16/6/2004	2.00	1.00	Rs.20	NIL
1/8/2004	1.10	1.42	NIL	NIL

Effective 1.8.04, with a view to moderating the impact of increase in international prices on domestic consumer prices of petrol and diesel, a price band mechanism has been put in operation, in terms of which Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) can effect price revisions only within a prescribed price band. If the ban is breached, OMCs have to consult Government.

Completion of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

1424. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of gas pipeline between Iran and India and how much time it would take to complete such a pipeline;

(b) what will be the benefits of constructing such a pipeline to India; and

(c) what are the main hindrances in the way of construction of such a pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The parameters of the Indo-Iran natural gas pipeline project have not been finalized.

(b) India is a gas deficit country. The Islamic Republic of Iran has the second largest gas reserves in the world and is in proximity to the potential Indian market and is likely to be in a position to supply gas to India on competitive terms. This would help in meeting the large and growing demand for gas in India.

(c) A natural gas pipeline from Iran can be laid under deepwater outside the Pakistan EEZ or in shallow waters within the Pakistan EEZ or overland *via* Pakistan. With regard to a deep sea pipeline, it poses a number of challenges for construction of pipes, laying them, operation, repair and maintenance. The pipeline would involve water depth of 3600 meters over large sections and nowhere in the world has any pipeline been laid at such water depths. With regard to a route within Pakistan EEZ or the overland route, India has security concerns regarding any pipeline transiting through Pakistan or its territorial waters, which need to be addressed and resolved to our satisfaction.

Jubilee Retail Outlets in Chhattisgarh

1425. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) on the development of Jubilee Retail Outlets (JRO's) in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the quantity of MS (Petrol)/HSD(Diesel) sold by IOC's and HPC's JROs and appointed labour contractors in the State;

(c) the number of complaints alleging irregularities in the functioning of IOC's and HPC's JRO's in the State received by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since their commissioning, company-wise separately; and

(d) the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The total amount spent by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) on the development of Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) in the State of Chhattisgarh is Rs. 7.28 crore.

(b) The total quantities of MS(Petrol) and HSD (Diesel) sold by the JROs of the two companies in the State during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 were 4.542 KL and 34,807 KL respectively.

(c) and (d) Neither the Ministry nor the oil companies concerned have received any complaint alleging irregularities in the functioning of the JROs in the State.